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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/07

SPONSOR M.J. Garcia LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Las Cruces Museum of Natural History SB 553

ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$466.3	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Cultural Affairs Department (CAD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 553 would appropriate \$466,280 from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in FY08 for the relocation of the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History from the Mesilla Valley Mall to a new location and for funding educational programs at the museum.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$466,280 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Cultural Affairs notes that, Senate Bill 553 would appropriate \$466,280 from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in fiscal year 2008 for the relocation of the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History from the Mesilla Valley Mall to a new location and for funding educational programs at the museum.

Senate Bill 553 would enhance the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History which is now housed in a small location at the Mesilla Valley Mall. It would also allow the museum to expand its excellent educational programs.

There is no other natural history museum in southern New Mexico. The Las Cruces Museum of Natural History has close relationships with other museums, notably the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

DFA notes that the museum is a major part of the City's 2005 strategic plan, enhancing the Cultural Corridor of the downtown revitalization process. The City will pay \$150,000 for renovations to the relocated museum and will own the building. State funding for educational programs is primarily for designing, fabricating, and installing museum exhibits.

In addition to the appropriation of \$466,280, the City of Las Cruces will also trade land for the building in order to facilitate this effort

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Las Cruces Museum of Natural History would continue to be restricted in its ability to attract visitors and to service area schools through its educational programming.

WEP/csd